

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 07503 262206Z

66

ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DEAE-00 AID-05 /014 W
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P 262145Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6348

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 7503

DEPT FOR S/NM AMBASSADOR VANCE

CARACAS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNARCO

SUBJECT: INCREASED NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE

REF: BOGOTA 7465

1. I MET WITH THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE (GENERAL VARON VALENCIA) THIS AFTERNOON AND, AFTER REVIEWING FOR HIM MY PREVIOUS DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL LOMBANA (REFTL), ASKED IF HE WOULD HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO MY NEGOTIATING AGREEMENTS FOR EXPANDED ASSISTANCE WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE AND THE CUSTOMS. THE MINISTER CONFINED HIMSELF TO STATING THAT THIS WAS A MATTER THAT WAS GOING TO BE PUT BEFORE A SESSION OF THE GENERAL STAFF (PRESUMABLY JULY 27) AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE A RESPONSE FOR ME THE NEXT DAY.

2. I POINTED OUT THAT I HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT DAY (JULY 28) AT WHICH TIME I HOPED TO BE ABLE TO TELL HIM HOW THINGS STOOD AND HOW THE EMBASSY PROPOSED TO PROCEED. THE DEFENSE MINISTER SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE THE OUTCOME OF THE GENERAL STAFF MEETING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN TIME FOR OUR MEETING.

3. SINCE THE DEFENSE MINISTER SHOWED NO INCLINATION TO GET INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS PENDING ISSUE, I THINK THE CHANCES ARE GOOD THAT HE WILL GIVE THE GO-AHEAD FOR MY NEGOTIATIONS
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WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE.

DREXLER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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